



Mary Nelson

August 15, 1926 - December 12, 2020

Mary 'Mania' Nelson, age 94, faithful servant of God, passed away on December 12, 2020 after a brief illness. Mania lived at Lourdes Fox Manor in Waterford, Michigan.

Born on August 15, 1926 in Boston, MA, the fourth of 5 children, Mania was the daughter of Polish immigrants, Antoni and Sofie Kalinowski. She graduated from the Boston School of Practical Arts for Girls, where she blossomed as a talented art and design student and after graduation she was employed at Filene's of Boston as a milliner (hat maker). In 1945, Mania left Boston in to seek work in Detroit, where a childhood friend lived, and found a job at the JL Hudson Company in Detroit. She was promoted to Designer of women's window displays on Woodward Avenue - the most fashionable windows at the store! Mania belonged to a youth group at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Royal Oak, where she met her future husband, WWII veteran Frank A. Nelson, son of Dr. A. Alfred Nelson and Catherine Nelson of Royal Oak. The two were married in Boston on October 23, 1948, and honeymooned in Washington DC and New York City, NY.

Mania and Frank settled in Berkley, Michigan, raising a family of six children and they belonged to Our Lady of LaSalette parish where she was involved in volunteer work and the PTA. She discovered a love of gardening and was known to many because of her beautiful gardens and the work she did

planting and maintaining gardens on the medians on Edgewood Boulevard in Berkley. She was a 40+ year member of the Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica and did a variety of volunteer jobs there. She was instrumental in recovering the buried garden on the grounds of the church and devoted many hours (with Dad in tow) cleaning and working to make them beautiful again. She later was a church docent and worked in the gift shop with her dear friend Judy Marsiglio.

Mania was pre-deceased by her husband Frank in 2001, a son Paul Nelson in 2004, and a son Guy Nelson in 2020. She is also pre-deceased by her parents, sisters Jean and Laurie and her dear brother Hank. She was also predeceased by her closest friend of over 50 years, Ruth Moran, formerly of Berkley, Michigan.

Mania is survived by her children: son Mark Nelson, Royal Oak, MI, daughter Marsha (Jeff) Sobel, White Lake, MI, son Kris (Michele) Nelson, Howell, MI, daughter Amy (Jeff) Burg, Bradenton, FL, daughter-in-law Theresa Nelson, Metamora, MI. She is also survived by her dear sister Bernice Lang, Laguna Woods, CA, sister-in-law Mary Sherman, Royal Oak, MI, brother-in-law David Nelson, Winter Springs, FL and her cherished niece Jean Bainger, Riverton, NJ. Mania is also survived by grandsons Matthew (Younghee) Nelson, South Korea, Emmett Nelson and Katy, Colorado and Bryan (Amanda) Daniels, Almont, MI. Mania has 3 great-grandchildren: Nuri and Shiwoo Nelson of South Korea and Amelia Daniels of Almont, MI. She also has many nieces and nephews.

Mom enjoyed living at Lourdes and we would like to give special thanks to all the staff for their loving and kind care.

Funeral will be held Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Royal Oak, MI. Visitation will be in the

St. Therese Chapel starting at 9:30 am with funeral mass starting at 10:00 am. For those who cannot attend, the mass will be livestreamed at: <https://www.shrinechurch.com/mass-livestream>. Interment will follow immediately at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery, 25800 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield, MI.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Wm. Sullivan and Son, Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Previous Events

In State at Church

DEC 16. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Funeral Mass

DEC 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall

BE

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bernice - August 15, 2022 at 10:10 AM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bernice - August 15, 2022 at 09:40 AM

BE

Happy heavenly birthday my sweet aunt Mania, your kind and generous heart that you shared freely with everyone you met is truly missed. Your numerous talents that you freely shared with so many of us will live on in our memories of you. I miss you and wish I could just get in my car and drive over to Berkley and visit with you for a time.

Bernice - August 15, 2022 at 09:47 AM

CZ

“ I met Mania 8 yrs ago, she was a patient in the dental office I worked in. One visit she mentioned she painted Pysanky Easter eggs and would teach me. Who wouldn't want a lesson on painting from Mania! A friendship was made. I will cherish her talent she shared with me and dearly remember her especially during the Easter season.
My heartfelt sympathy to Mark and his family.

Cindy Zielinski - December 14, 2020 at 08:24 PM

WM

“ Living in New York my actual visit time with Mrs. Nelson was limited but I don't think there was a month that went by without Amy letting me know that she & her mom were sending up prayers on my behalf. I'm soooo grateful for the strength and compassion that she brought to my life! Once Mrs. Nelson met you, you were hers ❤️ In heaven Mary's heart will know no limits and I'm certain we will all be stronger for it!

Thank You Mary!!!

Wendy Miccoli - December 14, 2020 at 05:26 PM

NR

“ It is hard to share a single memory as Mania has been a part of my whole life, a second mom to me growing up and a big part of my adult life as well. She and my mom were best friends, and shared the same birthday. I always told Mania that she was more talented than Martha Stewart but just lacked a good agent. There wasn't much she couldn't do. God speed Mania. We love and will miss you.

Nancie Moran Rodems - December 14, 2020 at 01:51 PM

BC

“ On behalf of the Capuchin brothers, I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Mary. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of Mary's life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Nelson family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Mary.

Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin - December 14, 2020 at 12:38 PM

PA

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. I was her dental hygienist for many years. She was one of those special people who would make your day. We loved discussing and sharing arts and crafts ideas.

Paula Atkinson - December 14, 2020 at 10:35 AM

KL

“ This morning a very caring and giving lady passed on through the gates of Heaven. My aunt Monia was in my mind just the sweetest aunts anyone could have and was full of life at 94. Some of the old wood furniture and old clocks I have are directly related to her interest in teaching me about preserving history. The first piece of furniture that she showed me how to refinish I still have 40 years later with some of the old clocks she gave me. My aunt was involved with the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak and did a lot of the flower planting around the church. She was also very good Friends with Fr. Edward J. Prus Pastor of the church. I could go on and on about her because she became a big part of who I am today. This picture was taken last year when I was up in Michigan and Joanne and I took her out for lunch. So remember nothing is forever. Take a minute to stop by and say hi or make a phone call. You'll remember it for the rest of your life. I know I will.



Ken Lang - December 13, 2020 at 07:05 PM

AM

Awww Ken, how sweet. Amy

Amy - December 13, 2020 at 07:39 PM



I have many fond memories of my Aunt Mania. I have but one regret or 2 regrets I missed the service and I was to lazy to get into the car to go visit her. She was just an awesome person

Richard Sherman - December 16, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JB

My most beloved aunt. My baby sitter when she was ten years old and my friend from then on. When all else would fail in my life she was there. There was a birthday card every year and her love was never wanting. Hers was a life lived to the fullest and an example to all.

Jean Bainger - December 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM

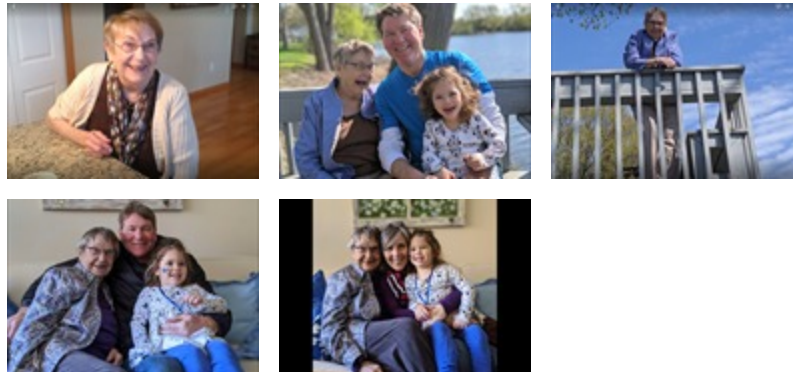
TN

“ *We have so many beautiful pieces of Mania’s artwork in our home. Guy and I have cherished every piece that she painted. She was truly talented in so many ways and will be greatly missed. We love you Mania* ❤️

Theresa Nelson - December 13, 2020 at 06:08 PM

TN

“ *18 files added to the album Memories Album*



Theresa Nelson - December 13, 2020 at 06:04 PM